

# ALL ODISHA RICE MILLERS ASSOCIATION

S-3/36 , Sec-A, Zone-B, Mancheswar Indl. Estate, Bhubaneswar-751010

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Dated 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2016.

To,  
Shri Aditya Prasad Padhi, IAS,  
Hon'ble Chief Secretary,  
Government of Odisha,  
Bhubaneswar.

Sir,

**Sub: Problem in delivery of Rice to FCI – Request for kind intervention.**

Most respectfully we would like to bring to your kind information that the *pace of rice delivery during the current KMS 2015-16 has gone down drastically.* As against the overall delivery of 2.34 lakh ton CMR till January during the previous KMS 2014-15, the delivery till Januray,16 during the current KMS 2015-16 is only 1.82 lakh ton. *This is about 22% less than the previous corresponding period which is indication of a possible alarming situation in the coming days.*

*The main problem in delivery of CMR is the rejection of lots by FCI due to underweight complaint in recently introduced 580 grams new gunny bags by Government of India resulting in financial loss and mental agony to the millers.*

Your honour may kindly appreciate that Jute Bags are supplied to the millers by the Odisha State Civil Supplies Corporation after purchasing from DGSD approved Jute Mills and millers have no role whatsoever in the quality aspect of such “BIS” marked gunny bags. *An atmosphere of panic and uncertainty is prevailing amongst the millers apprehending more and more rejection of rice lots.* There is an urgent need to clear the air of uncertainty and to regain the confidence of the millers by resolving the issue through your kind intervention.

We may submit here that new gunny bags with standard weight of 665 grams were used earlier and rice was accepted by FCI upto the lower weight limit of 565 grams i.e. upto (-) 15% of the standard weight considering loss of weight by driage in the moisture content. *But the newly introduced 580 gram standard weight jute bags are accepted only upto 545 grams i.e. upto (-) 6% as against earlier (-)15%.* This is the root of all problems. Loss of weight due to driage of moisture is a natural process and has to be accepted as a ground reality.

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This matter was discussed in detail with Principal Secretary, FS&CW Dept during procurement review meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2016 followed by another meeting yesterday by the undersigned with General Manager, FCI at Bhubaneswar. He was kind enough to visualize and appreciate our genuine problem but expressed his inability to accept gunny weight below 545 grams for newly introduced 580 gram gunny bags in view of the instructions issued recently by FCI Head Quarters, New Delhi.

Sir, we very much appreciate the need of quality gunny bags for packing of food grains to avoid national loss due to pilferage during storage and transportation. But it is for the Government to decide and fix the standards of such gunny bags. ***Our role is just limited to packing and delivery of rice in Government supplied gunny bags. There is no logic in rejecting and returning our rice lots when there is no quality complaint in the quality of rice itself.*** Pending any improvement or study in the quality of gunny bags, **acceptance of rice must continue in the Govt supplied gunny bags without any interruption.**

Timely rice delivery is directly related to smooth paddy procurement and ***any dislocation in rice delivery is likely to affect paddy procurement leading to distress sale of paddy.*** Possibility of quality deterioration in rice can not be ruled out at the delayed stage resulting in out right rejection of stocks by FCI.

We therefore, most humbly request your honour to kindly take up the matter with the Union Food Secretary and CMD, FCI to ensure smooth and timely delivery of rice.

Yours faithfully,

Copy to: 1) Principal Secretary, FS&CW Dept, Odisha.  
2) General Manager, FCI, Odisha Region.  
3) Managing Director, Oscsc Ltd.

Sd/-.  
(Santosh Kr. Agrawal),  
Chairman.